

HEALTH AND SCIENCE

# Fauci says U.S. should prepare to do anything and everything to fight the omicron variant

PUBLISHED SUN, NOV 28 2021-11:01 AM EST | UPDATED 2 HOURS AGO

Jessica Bursztynsky  
@JBURSZ

SHARE f t in

## KEY POINTS

- Americans need to be prepared to do “anything and everything” to fight the omicron Covid variant, U.S. infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci said Sunday.
- Still, it’s “too early to say” whether lockdowns or new mandates will be appropriate, Fauci said on ABC’s “This Week.”



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, testifies during the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing titled Next Steps: The Road Ahead for the COVID-19 Response, in Dirksen Building on Thursday, November 4, 2021.  
Tom Williams | CQ-Roll Call, Inc. | Getty Images

Americans need to be prepared to do “anything and everything” to fight the omicron Covid variant, U.S. infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci said Sunday.

Still, it’s “too early to say” whether lockdowns or new mandates will be appropriate, Fauci said on ABC’s “This Week.”

The World Health Organization last week classified omicron as a “[variant of concern](#),” meaning it is more contagious, more virulent or more skilled at evading public health measures, vaccines and therapeutics.

The variant, first discovered in South Africa, has several mutations to the spike protein that allows the virus to enter the body, and some of those mutations could lead to increased antibody resistance and transmissibility.

The U.S. had already said [it would restrict travel for non-U.S. citizens](#) from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique and Malawi. The variant has [been found](#) in the [U.K.](#), Israel, [Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany](#), Italy, Australia and Hong Kong, but not yet in the U.S.

“Inevitably, it will be here. The question is will we be prepared for it? If and when, and it’s going to be when, it comes here hopefully we will be ready for it,” Fauci added.

Fauci will be meeting Sunday with President [Joe Biden](#) and the Covid response team to discuss the variant and the administration’s response, a White House official said.

Biotech companies have sprung into action to fight against omicron. [Moderna’s](#) Chief Medical Officer Paul Burton said Sunday the vaccine maker [could roll out a reformulated vaccine](#) against the omicron coronavirus variant early next year. Although it’s not clear whether new formulations will be needed or if current vaccines will provide appropriate protection.

Fauci said unvaccinated people should still get available Covid vaccinations, per the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“We just really need to, as I’ve said so often, prepare for the worst. And it may not be that we’re going to have to go the route people are saying,” Fauci told ABC. “We’ll make decisions based on the science and evidence as we always do.”

## Undercover Boss

UP NEXT | **Undercover Boss** 5:00 PM ET

WATCH LIVE

Taboola Feed

## Gottlieb says breakthrough Covid infections more common than people realize due to weak monitoring

Dr. Scott Gottlieb told CNBC that people should get boosters as soon as possible because breakthrough infections are occurring more than the public realizes.

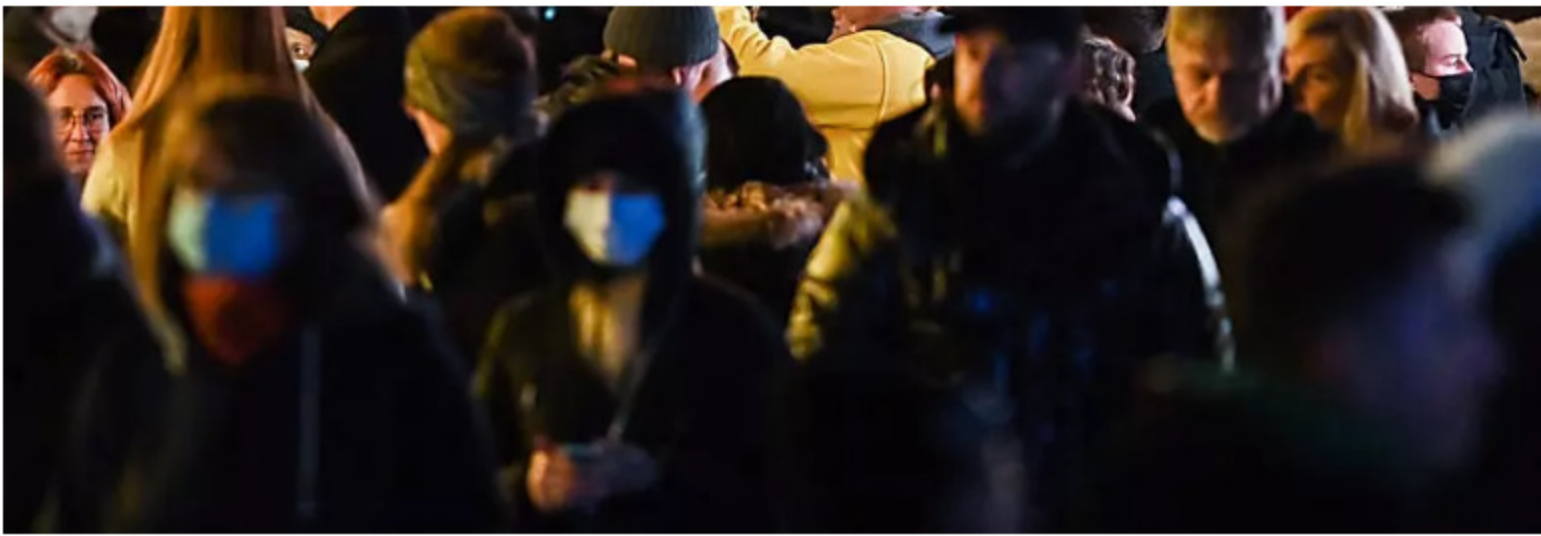
CNBC



## Investors who keep selling stocks on Covid fears will get left behind, says Jim Cramer

“If you’re dumping stocks because you’re worried about a re-ignition of Covid, you’re going to get left behind,” the “Mad Money” host said.

CNBC



## ‘Vaccinated, recovered or dead’: Germany gives stark winter warning to its people

Germany’s health minister issued a stark warning to the country’s public on Monday and outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel called for tougher restrictions.

CNBC



Subscribe to CNBC PRO

Supply Chain Values

Join the CNBC Panel

Closed Captioning

Internships

Ad Choices

Contact

Licensing & Reprints

CNBC on Peacock

Digital Products

Corrections

Site Map

Careers

CNBC Councils

Advertise With Us

News Releases

About CNBC

Podcasts

Help

## News Tips

Got a confidential news tip? We want to hear from you.

GET IN TOUCH



## CNBC Newsletters

Sign up for free newsletters and get more CNBC delivered to your inbox

SIGN UP NOW

Get this delivered to your inbox, and more info about our products and services.

Privacy Policy | Do Not Sell My Personal Information | CA Notice | Terms of Service

© 2021 CNBC LLC. All Rights Reserved. A Division of NBCUniversal

Date is a real-time snapshot. Data is delayed at least 15 minutes. Global Business and Financial News, Stock Quotes, and Market Data and Analysis.

Market Data Terms of Use and Disclaimers

Data also provided by REFINITIV